

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03159 101536Z

43

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9499

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MO

SUBJECT: KING ANNOUNCES BEGINNING OF AUTHENTIC SOCIALISM
FOR MOROCCO

1. ON JULY 8 KING HASSAN OPENED CELEBRATIONS OF YOUTH DAY (AND HIS 44TH BIRTHDAY) WITH HOUR-LONG SPEECH ANNOUNCING BEGINNING OF QUOTE REVOLUTION BASED ON AUTHENTICALLY MOROCCAN SOCIALISM UNQUOTE. HE BEGAN BY SPEAKING AT LENGTH ABOUT MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY PRIME MINISTER OSMAN LAST MAY (RABAT A-78), REQUIRING ALL UNIVERSITY GRADUATES TO CARRY OUT TWO YEARS NATIONAL SERVICE IN ADMINISTRATION FOLLOWING GRADUATION. KING REITERATED OSMAN'S PLEDGE THAT SALARIES WOULD BE ADEQUATE, ADDING THEY WOULD BE BASED ON FAMILY'S SIZE, AND PROMISING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FAVORITISM IN ASSIGNING JOBS. ALSO SAID NEW AND SMALLER PROVINCES ARE TO BE CREATED TO BRING ADMINISTRATION CLOSER TO PEOPLE.

2. KING ALSO ANNOUNCED TWO PILOT ECONOMIC PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT FARMERS AND WORKERS. IN COMING YEAR, LOCAL FARMERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO BUY TWO-THIRDS OF SHARES TO TWO GOVERNMENT-OWNED SUGAR FACTORIES, WITH STATE RETAINING CONTROL OF REMAINING THIRD. WORKERS IN THESE INSTITUTIONS WILL BENEFIT FROM PROFIT-SHARING SCHEME THROUGH WORKERS' FUNDS. ALSO, ON
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PAGE 02 RABAT 03159 101536Z

TRIAL BASIS, CERTAIN IRRIGATED FARMLANDS RECOVERED FROM

FOREIGN OWNERS TO BE TURNED OVER TO MANAGEMENT BY REVITALIZED JAMA'S, LOCAL COMMUNES, WHICH KING SAID HAVE TRADITIONALLY MANAGED LOCAL AFFAIRS IN MOROCCAN SOCIETY. ONE FARM FROM EACH ECONOMIC REGION OR PROVINCE WILL BE CHOSEN. BOTH MEASURES TO BE GENERALIZED LATER IF THEY PROVE SUCCESSFUL. IN BUILDING SOCIALISM, KING SAID IN EFFECT, HASTE MAKES WASTE.

3. COMMENT: KING'S REFORMIST SPEECH WILL PRESUMABLY BE WELCOMED BY RELATIVELY FEW WORKERS, FARMERS, AND STUDENTS DIRECTLY AFFECTED. LIMITED SCOPE AND TECHNICAL NATURE OF ROYAL DECISIONS MAKE IT UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WILL ELICIT MUCH ENTHUSIASM IN POPULATION AT LARGE. PILOT ECONOMIC MEASURES ARE PARTICULARLY CAUTIOUS. THEY ARE TO BE EXTENDED ONLY AFTER INITIAL EXPERIMENTS HAVE PROVEN SUCCESSFUL, A PROCESS WHICH WILL LIKELY TAKE SOME TIME. FROM A STRICTLY ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW, KING'S GRADUAL APPROACH MAY MAKE SENSE. FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, HOWEVER, SLOW PACE OF REFORM LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED. THERE MAY ALSO TURN OUT TO BE GAP BETWEEN INTENTION AND IMPLEMENTATION. FOR EXAMPLE, NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD OF A PILOT PROJECT TO COMBAT YOUTHFUL UNEMPLOYMENT SINCE ITS ANNOUNCEMENT WITH GREAT FANFARE LAST DECEMBER DURING STUDENT TROUBLES. IF MEASURES ARE TO HAVE ANY REAL EFFECT, FOLLOW-THROUGH WILL HAVE TO BE BETTER THAN WAS CASE FOR NOW LARGELY FORGOTTEN QUOTE YEAR OF ISLAMIC RENAISSANCE UNQUOTE ANNOUNCED BY KING IN LAST YEAR'S BIRTHDAY SPEECH. ROCKWELL

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